

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR G&F DIVISION, FAS

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TAGS: EAGR UR

SUBJ: USSE WINTER GRAIN AREA, 1973/1973

REF: TOFAS 96

1. "WINTER GRAIN FIELDS OF THE COUNTRY WILL TOTAL NOT LESS THAN 40 MILLION HECTARES THIS YEAR," ACCORDING TO A. NAVOLOTSKIY, DEPUTY CHIEF, GRAIN DEPARTMENT, USSR MINAGR (SELSKAYA ZHIZN, OCTOBER 5, 1973).

2. THIS IS MOST RECENT REFERENCE TO WINTER GRAIN AREA OF 40 MILLION HECTARES. FIRST REFERENCE NOTED BY THIS OFFICE WAS LEAD ARTICLE SELSKAYA ZHIZN, AUGUST 21, IN WHICH MEMBERS OF COLLEGIUM OF USSR MINAGR AND SCIENTISTS OF ALL-UNION ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES RECOMMENDED PLANTING 40 MILLION HECTARIES WINTER GRAIN FOR GRAIN REPEAT FOR GRAIN (REFEL). "THIS IS ALMOST 13 MILLION HECTARES MORE THAN HARVESTED AREA WINTER GRAIN THIS YEAR, AND 10 MILLION MORE THAN IN 1970." PRAVDA SAME DATE CARRIED AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE BY I. I. KHOROSHILOV, CHIEF, GRAIN DEPARTMENT, USSR MINAGR, WHO WROTE "AMONG MEASURES TO INCREASE GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1974, SOWING WINTER GRAIN HAS PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE. THESE CROPS

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SHOULD OCCUPY ABOUT 40 MILLION HECTARES, INCLUDING 35.3 MILLION

HECTARES FOR GRAIN. THIS IS 8.4 MILLION HECTARES MORE THAN THIS YEAR. SUCH TASK SHOULD BE VIEWED AS MINIMUM." KHOROSHILOV ADDED "THIS YEAR IT IS POSSIBLE EXPAND AREA UNDER WINTER RYE. IT IS MORE COLD RESISTANT, AND IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS SUBJECT TO WINTER KILL THAN WHEAT." MAJOR ARTICLE IN SELSKAYA ZHIZN, AUGUST 22, CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FALL SOWING IN VARIOUS REGIONS COUNTRY, REPEATED RECOMMENDATION MINAGR OFFICIALS AND AGRICULTURALSCIENTISTS TO EXPAND AREA WINTER GRAIN FOR GRAIN REPEAT GRAIN TO MINIMUM OF 40 MILLION HECTARES. FINALLY, RADIO MOSCOW REPORTED SEPTEMBER 1 THAT SOIL HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR WINTER CROPS ON 30.2 MILLION HECTARES OR 76 PERCENT OF PLAN, INDICATING PLANNED AREA OF 39.7 MILLION HECTARES.

3. SOWING PROGRESS REPORTS SINCE AUGUST 30 HAVE CONSISTENTLY INDICATED PLANNED AREA WINTER GRAIN OF 34-35 MILLION HECTARES.

4. FALL SOWING PLANS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN OVERFULFILLED IN ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, AND BELORUSSIA, AND IN NORTHWEST, VOLGA-VYATSK, VOLGA, URALS, AND WESTERN SIBERIA REGIONS OF THE RSFSR. MANY OTHER REGIONS, INCLUDING THE UKRAINE, INDICATED INTENTIONS EXPAND WINTER GRAIN AREA AND OVERFULFILL FALL SOWING PLANS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR WINTER GRAIN IS 34-35 MILLION HECTARES; PROBABLY THE 35.3 MILLION HECTARES MENTIONED BY KHOROSHILOV. AT SAME TIME, 40 MILLION HECTARE FIGURE APPARENTLY IS REVISED "UNOFFICIAL" TARGET FOR TOTAL WINTER GRAIN AREA, INCLUDING AN UNSPECIFIED AREA PLANTED FOR GREEN FEED. AT THIS JUNCTURE SOVIET INTENTIONS REMAIN UNKNOWN. IT IS CLEAR ONLY THAT USSR HOPES HAVE SOWN AREA WINTER GRAIN FOR GRAIN WITHIN RANGE 35.3 TO 40 MILLION HECTARES.

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